



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
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Project Fact Sheet March 3, 2003



Pentagon Memorial

Project: Memorial to honor those who were killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon

Location: Memorial will be built on the grounds of the Pentagon near the impact area.

Current Project Phase: Planning

Project Status: Completion of two-stage competition to select an artistic concept

Background: On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon. The crash resulted in the deaths of 59 passengers and crewmembers aboard the aircraft and 125 military and civilian personnel within the Pentagon, as well as many injuries and substantial damage to the building. Shortly after the attack, Congress authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish a permanent memorial on the grounds of the Pentagon. The Defense Department's Washington Headquarters Services gave the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the mission to provide planning, site selection, design, and related services for the memorial.

The Corps' Baltimore District began planning in October 2001. This effort to build a memorial so soon after the event is unprecedented. The Corps studied other recent memorial processes and found that success requires a process that is completely open, fair, and inclusive. Public involvement is key to the overall effort. The Corps has therefore engaged stakeholders from the beginning of the project.

In early November 2001, a working committee called the Focus Group was created, with representatives from federal and local agencies essential to planning this memorial. Later that month, Corps officials began meeting with a volunteer group of about a dozen family members of the victims. This group is called the Family Steering Committee. Meetings with this group have been held regularly, and steering committee input has been sought at every step of the project. Early in March 2002, the Corps hosted the first of a series of meetings to which all the victims' families were invited.

In April, Washington Headquarters Services, after review of the Corps' Site Selection Report, approved a site for the memorial near the impact area on the west face of the Pentagon. The Family Steering Committee was involved in the evaluation of 10 potential sites the Corps conducted.

A competition to select an artistic concept that is open worldwide to everyone was determined to be the clearest path to establishing the best memorial. The two-stage competition for the memorial began in June, and Stage One entries were due in September. Over 1,100 entries were received from all over the world. The Corps established a competition jury made up of highly respected design professionals, family members, and Washington dignitaries, including two former Secretaries of Defense. In late September, the Corps and the National Building Museum held a private exhibit of the competition entries for the families and loved ones, who recorded their comments. The comments were provided to the jury. The jury met, reviewed the submissions and chose six finalists, who then developed and submitted more detailed proposals. In the interim, a selection of 84 of the competition entries, including the six finalists, were displayed to the public at the National Building Museum.

For Stage Two, a family exhibit of the six finalists' submissions was held at the National Building Museum, and the submissions were displayed at the Pentagon for employees. Hundreds of written and electronic comments from family members, loved ones and Pentagon employees were provided to the jury and used in their deliberations when it reconvened in February 2003. The jury chose a winning concept, which is being announced today.

Contact information: Project web site: <http://pentagonmemorial.nab.usace.army.mil>. Competition web site: <http://memorialcompetition.pentagon.mil>. Project manager: Carol Anderson-Austra, 410-962-2910. Public affairs specialist: Mary Beth Thompson, (410) 962-2809. E-mail: Pentagon.Memorial@usace.army.mil.

Authorization: Section 2864 of Public Law 107-107, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, gives the Secretary of Defense the authority to establish a memorial on the grounds of the Pentagon.